



St. John's Art Gallery at Wilmington, opened to the public in 1962, was built in 1801 and originally housed the oldest Masonic Lodge in North Carolina. Original Masonic frescos are preserved here. This is one of 35 buildings included in the preservation program of the Wilmington Historic District.

This historical marker in the ancient port city of Beaufort (right) tells the story of an all-but forgotten industry in the 17th and 18th centuries in North Carolina. Commercial fishing is still an important economic factor, but whale fishing is as extinct as Diamond City, which a century ago was a thriving settlement near the present Cape Lookout lighthouse. The retired fishing boat "Alphonso" is now open as a whaling museum on Beaufort's waterfront.



Wrecks of hundreds of ships are buried under the sands of North Carolina's coast, and sometimes exposed by storms—as was this one discovered by photographer and models on Ocracoke Island. Wrecks may be found on Hatteras and Nags Head islands, also.

The Roy Hampton Museum at Morehead City has a fascinating display of all types of fish and shellfish found in North Carolina coastal waters.

